

of Social Democracy and the Centrum. In 1911 the situation was superficially eased by the granting of the status of a federal unit, with manhood suffrage for the Lower Chamber; but no concessions made any real difference in local sentiment or Franco-German relations. The Zabern incident, provoked by an insulting word of a young Lieutenant, who also struck a lame shoemaker with his sword, showed that the atmosphere was electric and that Germany was still in the grip of the military machine. Bethmann confesses regretfully in his apologia that the Reichsland was regarded primarily as a military *glacis*. Forty years of German rule had brought material prosperity, but neither liberty nor contentment. The pictures of Zislin and "Hansi" were received with delight, and the unchanging demands of the intransigents were voiced by Abbe Wetterle in the Reichstag. Where France had succeeded in winning and keeping the sympathies of the inhabitants, Germany conspicuously failed.

A further obstacle to Franco-German reconciliation was the Foreign Legion, in which men of different races who had made shipwreck of their lives sought oblivion or rehabilitation. To the new Germany, bursting with pride in her unity and strength, it was maddening that any of her sons should choose to enter the service of France, even under the pitiless African sun; and it was universally believed that some of the renegades were seduced by French propaganda. The number of Germans serving at any moment was small, but its mere existence was a perpetual irritant. It was a favourite theme of Pan-German agitators, and a special League of Defence against the Foreign Legion was founded at Munich.

France did not allow the Act of Algeciras to thwart her far-reaching designs in Morocco. In 1907, in consequence of local disturbances, she occupied Ujda on the Algerian frontier and Casablanca on the Atlantic coast. From 1906 to 1909, however, the rudder was in the hands of Clemenceau, whose dislike for colonial adventures was undiminished. In January, 1908, Jules Cambph, the Ambassador at Berlin, reported that the German Foreign Minister desired to discuss an economic understanding. In March the latter informed the Reichstag that Franco-German relations were normal and even friendly, and that Germany fully recognized the loyalty of France to the